

Message Text

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21

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3905

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, XF

SUBJ: USG ROLE IN HANDLING AUB SCHOLARSHIPS

REF: BEIRUT A-94, MANAMA 422

1. AS WE HAVE STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THIS EMBASSY STRONGLY OPPOSES ABOLITION OF AAO BEIRUT POSITION AND SUBSEQUENT ASSUMPTION BY AUB AND LOCAL MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION OF MANAGEMENT OF AID/AUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

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2. FROM OUR STANDPOINT, THREE REASONS MITIGATE

AGAINST PROPOSAL:

A. REDUCED VISIBILITY: AID/AUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS CLEAR SYMBOL OF USG CONCERN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN YEMEN. TO TRANSFER IT DIRECTLY TO AUB WOULD DIMINISH ITS VISIBILITY AS USG PROGRAM. YEMENIS ARE WONT TO COMPARE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS MADE BY WEST WITH THOSE OF BLOC COUNTRIES. SEVERING THE AID/AUB PROGRAM'S DIRECT CONNECTION WITH USG, WHILE EAST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS MAINTAIN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS HERE THAT ARE SEVERALFOLD LARGER WOULD INVITE INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS.

B. LOSS OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS: ALTHOUGH IT DEMANDS EXPENDITURE OF USG STAFF TIME BOTH IN BEIRUT AND HERE, PRESENT SYSTEM ASSURES HIGH DEGREE OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS. SCHOLARSHIPS NOW GO TO BEST ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED PEOPLE IN HIGH PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT FIELDS. PLACING PROGRAM UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL OF AUB AND YARG MIN ED WOULD VIRTUALLY GUARANTEE THAT MOST SCHOLARSHIPS WOULD FALL INTO HANDS OF PROTEGES OF POLITICALLY POWERFUL.

C. REDUCTION OF STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES: MTPICAL YEMENI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT HAS HIGH NATIVE INTELLIGENCE, BUT IS ILL PREPARED EDUCATIONALLY, CULTQCALLY OR PWIYCHOLOGICALLY FOR HIIEXPERIENCE AT AUB. PARTICULARLY AT BEGINNING OF HIS COLLEGE CAREER, HE NEEDS CAPABLE PERSONAL COUNSELING, TO ENABLE HIM TO COPE WITH SUCH MATTERS AS COURSE SELECTION, STUDY HABITS AND ADJUSTMENT TO LIFE ON CAMPUS AND IN BEIRUT. WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT AUB'S CAPABILITY OF ASSUMING THIS VITAL FUNCTION FROM AAO.

3. ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT CUT COSTS, CUTTING AAO POSITION, IN OUR OPINION, WOULD NOT BE COST-EFFECTIVE.
CRAWFORD

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